

## Christmas vigil by bomb squad

Fears grew last night that bomb attacks might continue in London in spite of the Provisional IRA's ceasefire. Bomb experts believe the terrorists' explosives might become so unstable that indiscriminate attacks would be made to get rid of unsafe stocks.

## Heath visit to troops

Scotland Yard's 100-strong bomb squad was placed on full alert for the whole of the Christmas period as fears grew that bomb attacks might continue in London in spite of the Provisional IRA's eleven-day ceasefire.



Mr Heath meeting soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, in Londonderry yesterday during his two-day tour of Northern Ireland.

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## Home Office pays £17,500 to man wrongfully jailed for five years

By Robert Parkes  
Mr Lisado Virag, who was wrongfully jailed for five years, has been awarded £17,500, the largest ex-gratia payment ever made for wrongful imprisonment.

## 319 alleged victims of African ruler named

From Harry Debehus Madrid, Dec 23  
Refugees from the young African nation of Equatorial Guinea furnished a list here today of 319 persons who they say have been executed by order of President Francisco Macias Nguema.

## Strong powers proposed for Greek president

From Maria Modiano Athens, Dec 23  
The Greek Government today announced a new constitution. This establishes a parliamentary republic under a president vested with broad executive and legislative powers.

## Humfrey aide indicted over cash gift

New York, Dec 23—Mr Jack Chestnut, Senator Hubert Humphrey's Senate campaign manager in 1974, was indicted today on a federal charge of handling an undeclared \$72,000 (£20,000) campaign contribution from milk producers.

## Onassis reward for son's crash

Athens, Dec 23—Mr Aristotele Onassis, the millionaire shipowner, today offered a reward of £220,000 for conclusive confirmation of suspicions that the air crash in which his son Alexander was killed was due to sabotage.

## Cuba visit

Havana, Dec 23—Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, will pay an official visit to Cuba next June. He will be the first West European government leader to visit the island since the revolution—Reuter.

## Ethiopian warning to people of Asmara

Addis Ababa, Dec 23—Ethiopia's military rulers tonight called on the people of Asmara, the provincial Eritrean capital where fighting broke out last night between guerrillas and the Ethiopian Army, to withdraw the rebels out of the town or face military action.

## Rescue flight to Argentine navy ship in Channel

Two seamen were killed and a third was badly burnt in a boiler explosion in an Argentine tank-liner off the coast of Hastings yesterday.

## Gold price record after Paris pledge

The gold price jumped to a new record level on world bullion markets yesterday. It rose \$5 (about £2) an ounce in London, to end the day's trading at \$193 an ounce.

## Pendil's target

Pendil, the country's leading steeplechaser, attempts to become the first horse to win the King George VI Steeplechase three times at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

## Strike forces diversion

Christmas holidaymakers were diverted yesterday when more than two hundred flights and at least 10,000 passengers were diverted from Gatwick to Luton, Heathrow, Bristol and Birmingham because of a strike by British Airways ground crew.

## Threat of farm strikes

Agricultural workers' leaders may call for selective strikes to win local pay increases after yesterday's decision by the Agricultural Wages Board to reject a demand for a weekly minimum wage of £35.

## Rush for state aid

Increasing pressure on costs and profits has led to a big increase in the number of industrial companies applying for state aid. The Department of Industry has processed 380 applications since January and is studying a further 600 requests.

## Threat of farm strikes

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British public, with its sense of humour, is probably the middle course.

Table of contents: Home News, European News, Overseas News, Appointments, Arts, Business, 12-13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

HOME NEWS

Farm men may call strikes and try to halt food deliveries

By Raymond Perman Labour Staff

Farmworkers' leaders may call for a campaign of selective strikes to win local pay improvements after yesterday's decision by the Agricultural Wages Board not to meet the demand for a £35 minimum weekly wage.

The farmworkers' union, he added, felt that the board had not gone nearly far enough to establish a proper rate. If a £30.50 minimum was justified in July, it was justified in January, he added.

Wife faces another charge at Guildford

Thirteen people were further remanded by Guildford magistrates yesterday in connection with bomb attacks on public houses at Guildford and Woolwich. One, Mrs Anne Maguire, already charged with murder, was further charged with possessing explosive for unlawful purposes.



O come, all ye faithful . . . Worcester Cathedral choir exhorting Christians at a carol service

Miners seek union overtime limit

Yorkshire miners are seeking guidance from their union's national executive on the amount of overtime they should work. Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers, said yesterday that an executive recommendation that branches should determine their own amount of overtime was not acceptable.

British Airways asks for Laker Skytrain licence to be revoked

By Arthur Reed Air Correspondent British Airways has asked the Civil Aviation Authority to revoke the licence the authority gave the independent Laker Airways two years ago to operate the walk-on Skytrain cheap fare service across the North Atlantic.

confident that I shall be starting my new service in April. Mr Laker first applied for the Skytrain licence with proposed fares of £32.50 single in the winter months between London and New York and £37.50 in summer. As a result of inflation, his latest proposed fares are £52 and £59 respectively.

Talks on national papers dispute adjourned

By our Labour Staff Talks aimed at resolving the dispute between the National Graphical Association and the proprietors of national newspapers were adjourned yesterday for at least a week.

retary of the Newspaper Publishers Association, said: "Endeavours to obtain a joint statement on procedure relating to the new agreement were adjourned pending a report back by the NGA negotiating committee to their executive council."

Dartmoor carols cancelled

Plans for a carol concert inside Dartmoor prison yesterday were cancelled after a dispute involving prison officers.

Christmas in prison for football supporter

A football supporter kicked out with a steel capped boot at another supporter during the Chelsea match against West Ham on Saturday will spend Christmas in Pentonville prison.

Advertisement for Oxfam featuring a silhouette of a person and the text 'URGENT! World Food Crisis' and 'my hungry brother is your brother too'. It includes information about world food stocks and a form to donate.

'Mastermind' title won by a third woman

By Kenneth Gosling Mrs Elizabeth Horrocks last night demonstrated once again that the female of the species has the steadier nerve when facing Magnus Magnusson's two-minute bursts of rapid-fire questions.



Mrs Elizabeth Horrocks

Fire victims remembered at service

Hundreds of Christmas shoppers stood in silence yesterday as mourners arrived for a memorial service for the 13 pensioners who died when fire swept the Fairfield old people's home eight days ago at Edwalton, Nottinghamshire.

Tower hotel at South Bank agreed by Mr Crosland

By Our Planning Reporter The Government has overruled objections to a 380ft hotel at South Bank, London, close to the new National Theatre.

Minister is to reopen oil refinery inquiry

Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, is to reopen the inquiry into plans to build an oil refinery at Cliffe, in north Kent, it was disclosed yesterday.

Four accused of murder in Belfast

Four men were charged yesterday with three murders in Belfast. Two, aged 27 and 28, accused of killing Mr Joseph McDermott, aged 35, a Roman Catholic, whose body was found at the weekend, were remanded in custody until January 6.

Weather forecast and recordings

Weather forecast section including maps of the UK and Europe, and tables for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day with sunrise, sunset, and moonrise data.

Immigrant plot trial

Six Indians, a German and a Dutchman were committed for trial in custody to Southend Crown Court at Southend yesterday, jointly charged with conspiring together and with other persons to contravene the Immigration Act, 1971.

Yesterday

Table showing weather conditions for various locations like London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, etc., for the previous day.

HOME NEWS

Taxes should pay for firemen, police and education, traders say

By Christopher Warman, local Government correspondent. The responsibility for all local authority expenditure on education, the fire service and the police should be transferred to central government...

and amenities, ratepayers would have an incentive to ensure that the elected representatives authorized expenditure only on what ratepayers themselves wanted. "We recommend, however, that the expenditure of local authorities on those services for which they would be entirely responsible under our proposals should be limited..."



The choir of the National Children's Home, Harpenden, warming up for "A Stocking Full of Stars" which BBC television will relay live tomorrow from the home.

Christmas gifts 'are no cure for loneliness'

By Diana Geddes. On Christmas Day thousands of old people will receive more attention than at any other time of the year. Mr David Hobman, director of Age Concern, says today. But it is a sad indictment of society if people really think loneliness can be cured by a Christmas pudding or a gift of talcum powder.

Mr Wilson to rebuke dissenting whip

By Our Political Staff. No 10 Downing Street confirmed yesterday that the Prime Minister, before he leaves to spend Christmas Day at Chequers, will rebuke Mr Walter Johnson, an assistant secretary for adversely criticizing in public the Government's decision to approve increases in top salaries last Friday.

Council in lash over wanslea's round

Wanslea City Council decided yesterday to buy the Vetch field, home of the city's fourth Division Football League club, £200,000. The money includes £50,000 for the ground and £150,000 in grants to the council.

BBC head's warning of threat to services

By a Staff Reporter. If there is a significant difference between the licence fee the BBC needs and what it eventually gets, the changes in services that would follow would represent a reversal of decisions deliberately taken by the Government over the years about the development of BBC broadcasting.

will be taken by the Government, even if their precise nature means that we shall have to offer less to the public than we should have hoped. Sir Charles also answers criticisms made about BBC spending. Out of 56,000 artists employed in any one year, 97 per cent earn less than £2,000 a year; some said that was too little and Sir Charles says he would be inclined to agree if that was their only source of income.

EBC to take its share, and the recent cuts in services were a demonstration of that point. "We never stop looking for savings through efficiency. But we do not intend to sacrifice quality. It would be a poor argument to ask the public to pay more for a poorer product, and for less of it."

of Shirley Bassey, the singer, in lights. "What we actually paid for that was £25 to the RAF Benevolent Fund," he said. Programme cuts: Cuts in late night and afternoon television programmes, brought about by the BBC's financial crisis, will begin on Sunday, January 5.

Energy rationing food, Bishop says

The Bishop of London, Dr David Ellison, declared yesterday that essential food and the use of energy will be rationed. His Christmas letter to diocesan clergy said: "If we are at war with inflation, then we should recognize that we are on a footing and accept the sacrifices which that entails."

Hospitals may start next week to defer patients

Letters postponing many of next week's outpatient appointments for hospitals in the North-west are likely to be sent out this week as the hospital consultants' work-to-contract starts to make itself felt. Sixty representatives of 700 consultants in the North-west have decided to advance the British Medical Association's starting date of January 2 for their work-to-rule over the Government's new contract proposals.

threatening conditions such as cancer are seen much earlier than non-urgent cases. Mr John Clegg, a consultant surgeon at Leighton Hospital, Crewe, where consultants have been working to rule for a fortnight, said yesterday that the number of patients seen in outpatient clinics, and operations have been cut by almost half. Patients originally were waiting about a month to be seen as outpatients by consultants, he said. Already that was up to eight or nine weeks.

Police praise victim who tricked thieves

When a toolbox was taken from his car a college lecturer, Mr Clive Davies, advertised in a shop window for a toolbox. He made a citizen's arrest when two men offered to sell him the box stolen from his car. Sgt Proven Sharpe, head of court yesterday Peter Barry Thorpe, aged 27, a roof tiler, of Laburnum Road, Exeter, and his nephew, Brian Ivor Thorpe, aged 19, a laboratory assistant, of Burnhouse Lane, Exeter, pleaded guilty to stealing a metal toolbox and tools belonging to Mr Davies, of Earl Richards Road, Exeter.

Lord Moyle of Llandiloes dies aged 80

Lord Moyle, of Llandiloes, died at his home yesterday. He was aged 80. As Mr Arthur Moyle, he was Labour MP for Stourbridge from 1945 to 1950 and represented Oldbury and Halesowen from 1950 to 1964. He was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Lord Arlee when he was Prime Minister and later Leader of the Opposition from 1946 to 1955. Lord Moyle was created a life peer in 1966.

Pop birth rate is in low-population area

Staff Reporter. Northern Ireland had the lowest birth rate in the United Kingdom last year, yet the rates for marriage and divorce. The North-west of England topped the illegitimacy tables with one baby in four out of wedlock. In Scotland, producers of some 10 million live beef, eat about 20 cent less carcass meat a year than the English or Irish, but make up eating potatoes and bread. They eat less fresh fruit and less half the fresh green vegetables eaten by the English and Irish.

But Northern Ireland is still the second most sparsely populated of the regions, with 110 people a square kilometre. The North-west area, including Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire and Manchester, is the most densely populated, with 845 people a sq km, followed by the South-east, with 632 people. Scotland has the most living space, with only 66 people per sq km.

Central heating is found less in the colder regions of the North than in the more affluent South. About 44 per cent of homes in the South-east, South-west and East Anglia have full or partial central heating, compared with 34 per cent in Scotland, 27 per cent in Wales and 24 per cent in Northern Ireland.

Striker fined for throwing stone

John Ellis, aged 56, a strike picket, who threw a stone at a lorry that got through a picket line, was fined £25 at Hull Magistrates' Court yesterday for threatening behaviour. Mr Ellis told the court: "It was frustration."

Drive against mastitis

After three years of local surveys the Milk Marketing Board has launched a large-scale campaign against mastitis, a bacterial infection that may reduce the milk output of a cow by a tenth.

Advertisement for HINE cognac. Features a bottle of HINE V.S.O.P. Fine Cognac and a glass. Text includes 'HINE connoisseurs' cognac' and 'V.S.O.P. 24 FL. OZS. Vieux Cognac T. HINE & Co. COGNAC PRODUCE OF FRANCE'.

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

# The Pope takes risk in carrying on Holy Year tradition

From Peter Nichols Rome, Dec 23

Shortly before midnight tomorrow night the Pope will symbolically strike the holy door of St Peter's three times with a golden hammer under the brilliant light of television arc lamps. He will do so not only to open the door itself but also to open the twenty-fifth Holy Year of the Catholic Church.

The Pope's action will signal a great gamble. Holy Years are inclined to arouse many kinds of doubts. The first Holy Year was probably the most impressive. In 1300 the energetic and highly ambitious Boniface instituted what was to become a regular element in Catholic life very remotely based (if indeed at all, more than in name) on Mosaic tradition.

a municipality loaded with debts. No one appears to know how many pilgrims can be expected, estimates vary from three or eight million. An indication of the strain they will place on Rome's already overcrowded streets is the estimate that on days expected to attract the biggest number of pilgrims there will be 1,000 additional tourist coaches and 15,000 more motor cars than usual.

Conservationists say the city will not have enough water, that it will suffer increased pollution of the atmosphere, and cause a dangerous sewage problem because of the lack of cleansing plants. They say the city's authorities have not heeded the Pope's own plea that Holy Year should be marked by the disappearance of the shanty-towns and other forms of improvised housing in which up to 100,000 people are said to live.

Criticism is also heard of the Vatican's decision to use every means available to the Church to bring the greatest number of faithful to Rome. "When the Church is fully mobilized", one leading Rome personality said, "there is always trouble".



The Pope greeting prelates in the Vatican yesterday.

So long as the city itself survives the strain the success of this Holy Year will depend on what the Pope himself manages to make of it. He will have a captive audience of enthusiastic faithful, but however predisposed they may be to enthusiasm, even they will want to see some justification for this huge effort on the part of the Church throughout the world. It will not be an easy event to judge.

Historically, Holy Years have their distasteful touches: old Roman songs tell of the swindling of poor pilgrims, judging it to be a well-deserved fate. Profiteering has been a familiar side of the occasions and the Church itself has, from time to time, made no secret of the commercial advantage involved.

# Peace plea for Middle East and Ireland

From Our Correspondent Rome, Dec 23

The Pope today sent his hope for peace to Ireland, the Middle East, Vietnam and other areas of conflict in the world. In an address to cardinals who presented him with their Christmas greetings, he said: "How much we desire that Jerusalem instead of being the object of continuing strife, may become the crossroads of a fraternal counter for all those who believe in one God, and the symbol of peace for the people of the Holy Land and for all the peoples of the Middle East."

"To this generous and to mented region and to all other parts of the world, when in Ireland, which is always dear to us and present in our thoughts—conflicts and violence continue to disturb civil harmonious living, we send our greeting of peace—a just peace that formulates an ever more deeply-felt commitment. This year of spiritual renewal and reconciliation that is about to begin."

# French islanders vote for independence

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 23

France has lost the first of its autonomous overseas territories with yesterday's overwhelming vote for independence by the Comoro Islands, in the Indian Ocean. In a record turnout yesterday, 95.56 per cent of the islanders voted to break away from France politically but to preserve some links.

# Developing nations united in approach to EEC

From Rome, Bernhoid Brussels, Dec 23

The remarkable cohesion of the 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries negotiating a new trade and aid agreement with the EEC has not cracked at the eleventh hour. This is the first time that the 46 ACP countries have met in Brussels from the final ministerial consultations of the ACP countries in Dakar, Senegal, at the end of last week.

# Portugal seeks to resume links with Africa

From Our Correspondent Lisbon, Dec 23

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, left Lisbon today for a fortnight's good-will tour which will include India, Somaliland, Russia, Yugoslavia and Romania.

# Avalanche stop at Kitzbuhel 'not roped off'

Innsbruck, Dec 23—Robert Braunian, head of official inquiry into Saturday's disaster in Kitzbuhel, today disputed statements that the nine skiers who died were in a zone classified as dangerous.

He said that many skiers told him that the slope had been roped off. It was only after an experienced skier added: "There were 13 Austrians and 15 Germans were caught in an avalanche and only four were pulled clear."—Reuter

# Rome shops hit by drop in Christmas sales

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Dec 23

Shopkeepers in Rome worried by the sharp drop in Christmas sales this year have reduced the price of 50 per cent of greeting cards and up to 25 per cent for clothes. Their association states as a result thousands of shops and businesses are facing serious and immediate consequences.

# Spain recognize political parties

Madrid, Dec 23—A Bill giving Spaniards a limited right to form political parties was passed in the 35 years of Franco's regime.

It gives Spaniards over 35 the right to associate themselves freely for political action. It attaches strings to the right, however.

# Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Iraq

The Government of the Republic of Iraq have revealed, on several occasions, the acts of aggression engaged in by the Government of Iran against Iraq, and the numerous continued attempts, on the part of that Government, against the sovereignty of Iraq over all its territories, after the unilateral abrogation by Iran of the Shatt Al-Arab 1937 agreement.

It has been noticed that such acts of aggression against the borders of Iraq tended to increase and become wider in scope whenever the Government of Iraq achieved further successes in their efforts to implement the Autonomy Law in the northern region of the country and bring about the final suppression of the outlaw hireling faction.

On all such occasions, the Iraqi Government made it clear that interference by the Government of Iran in Iraq's internal affairs and aggression by that Government against Iraq's borders are in reality acts of aggression and interference committed by American colonialism, that is to say that such acts, in the last analysis, are but part and parcel of the overall activity engaged in by the United States of America throughout the area for the achievement of the objectives of its well-known policy of aggression.

However, the situation has now developed into a new phase through widening the scope of military interference and the use of new types of sophisticated weapons by the Government of Iran, which have resulted in the incidents referred to by the communiqué issued by the Iraqi General Staff on the 16th of this month.

The above incidents have escalated the interference in Iraq's internal affairs and the aggression against its territories, population and armed forces to a new level which cannot be allowed to pass unheeded.

The interference by the Government of Iran, with the support of the United States of America, in the internal affairs of Iraq constitutes a complete example of the breaking of international law, the United Nations Charter and disregard of the basic principles of international relations which are based on respect for the sovereignty of states and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Such a situation cannot but lead to upheaval in international relations, constitute a threat to peace and create conditions that are conducive to armed conflicts.

The situation arising from the above interference on its new level cannot be considered but grave, and deserving the full attention of the world community.

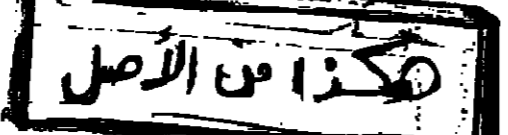
The Iraqi Government, who have always sought to solve difficulties with the Government of Iran through negotiations must make it clear to all concerned that the new situation cannot be overlooked and that the Iraqi Government will stand firm to protect national sovereignty and repulse aggression against the country.

In declaring this, the Iraqi Government turn to the peoples and governments of the Arab Homeland, pointing out that the acts engaged in by the Government of Iran with the support of the United States of America are linked with the overall hostile activity of colonialism in the Arab World, and that, as such, those activities call for watchfulness and caution.

The Iraqi Government also urges the world community to watch this grave critical situation and keep in mind the collective responsibility for safeguarding peace and security in the world.

The Government of Iran and those standing behind them will bear in the end, the responsibility of the consequences which will ensue from this grave situation.

December 17th, 1974



# M Chirac reassures Shah on gold price

From Our Correspondent Teheran, Dec 23

M Chirac, the French Prime Minister, said tonight that reports about a change in the price of gold which had circulated since the talks between President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing in Martinique last weekend, were completely baseless. What had been done amounted only to a "reform in the central bank's accounting system".

Chirac, speaking before leaving Teheran at the end of a three-day visit, emphasized that neither France nor the United States wanted a revaluation of gold. The only change resulting from the Martinique decision would be in the balance sheets of the central banks.

# 40,000 'guest workers' lose Swiss jobs

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Dec 23

There are many worried faces among the 150,000 "seasonal" workers who have returned to their own countries, mainly Italy, Spain and Yugoslavia, during the past two weeks. They are in the category of foreign worker authorized to stay in Switzerland no more than 10 months a year. After five consecutive years of this, they can become settled workers and are then allowed to bring their families.

# S Africans baffled by apartheid complexities

From Michael Kaipe Cape Town, Dec 23

Race regulations have grown so complex and contradictory in South Africa that with Christmas festivities approaching their peak newspapers are publishing guides as to what forms of multi-racial mixing are allowed. There is minimal interracial contact at a social level in the republic and few people are aware of what they may, or may not, do legally.

# Egyptian leaders will for peace

Cairo, Dec 23—M Saoufargues, the French Foreign Minister, left for Paris tonight at the end of a five-day official visit to Egypt.

Before leaving he told reporters that Egyptian leaders had shown him "a will for peace", but he predicted further tension in the Middle East when the United Nations peacekeeping mandate expires next year.

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OVERSEAS

Holy Land waits apprehensively for Christmas marked by gloom, fear and austerity

From Eric Marsden Bethlehem, Dec 23 From almost every angle it looks like being a harsh, bitter Christmas in the Holy Land. The belief that another year is looming, the constant danger of terrorism, economic hardships caused by Israel's emergency measures and the continuing blight on tourism have all depressed the festive spirit.

It was, he said, utterly wrong to make tourists targets for terrorism and he was sure this was not supported by the people. Security will be even more intensive than usual in Bethlehem and church authorities have been informed of the special measures taken by the military government to prevent infiltration. But it may be impossible to prevent isolated incidents such as that on the Jericho road on Sunday, when a tourist bus was attacked.

Churchmen has criticized his actions. Both Arabs and Israelis have blind spots concerning terror and counter-terror. Decent ordinary Arabs have known for years refuse to show any remorse for the deliberate killing of women and children by the unprovoked by Israeli forces. The bombing attacks on refugee camps in Lebanon. When a delegation of church dignitaries visited the Religious Affairs Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, to plead for Monsignor Capucci's release, he said he was "stunned by their failure to express any regret or to condemn the archbishop's actions".

Report on CIA spying ordered by Mr Ford

From Fred Emery Washington, Dec. 23 President Ford today ordered Dr Kissinger to report to him "within a matter of days" on newspaper allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency conducted mass illegal spying in the United States during the Nixon years. The CIA is authorized only to operate abroad.



Mr Ford ends a good day's skiing: His bodyguard, however, are reported "mediocre" on skis.

Kissinger optimism on foreign policy

Washington, Dec. 23 Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, in wide-ranging interviews is delivering assured and relatively optimistic analyses of the world situation. Whether or not, as some intimates suggest, he is deliberately covering his true feelings of deep pessimism and dismay, the fact is that in his latest public statement in today's Newsweek magazine he speaks of "a growing realization that the political demoralization of the industrialized countries must be arrested."

Seven British servicemen missing at sea

Hongkong, Dec 23 - The marine authorities here fear for the safety of seven Hongkong-based British servicemen missing for three weeks on a cruise to the colony from Bangkok. This afternoon they issued a radio message requesting shipping in the South China Sea to help to look for the topsail boat, the Rusanee. The boat had not been heard from since December when an American warship reported sighting it some 200 miles south-east of Saigon in an area which has been hit by phoons since early this month.

£20m British interest-free loan for Pakistan

From Our Correspondent Rawalpindi, Dec 23 Sir Laurence Pumphrey, the British Ambassador to Pakistan, today signed an aid agreement under which Pakistan will receive a £20m interest-free loan, repayable in 25 years with a seven-year grace period. The project to be financed out of the loan is the subject of negotiations between the British and Pakistani Governments.

Russian Jews make plea for prisoners

Moscow, Dec 23.—Unmolested by a small number of watching policemen, some 45 Jews presented a petition to the Supreme Soviet today asking for the release of 40 "prisoners of Zion" from Soviet jails and labour camps. The petition, bearing about 300 signatures, coincided with the sentencing in Leningrad of 11 people, mostly Jews, who tried to hijack an airliner.

Dilemma of Japanese Premier

in Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, Dec 23 Attempts by the new Prime Minister, Mr Takeo Miki, to re-establish the tarnished image of the Liberal Democratic Party by dissociating it from the rest of Japan's powerful interest houses, have only led to a further deepening of the rift between the two main camps of industry and commerce. Mr Miki's moves to give teeth to Japan's Fair Trade Commission and to apply laws, it was touched off by the secretary of the party, Mr Akira Nakasone (the Minister for Trade and Industry), suggested that the government might water down the Bill designed to inhibit country's laissez faire.

Greetings to you from the friends of Outset

- Tim and Frances Aldington-Smyth of Chiswick, W.4. Eric and Mary Frank of Clifton, Bristol. John Kingsbury of Worthing, Sussex. The company of "Sleuth" at the Fortune Theatre. Mr and Mrs Lawrence Spalton of East Harting, Hampshire. Stephen Spender of St. John's Wood, London. Anne and Nicolas Stacey of Solihull, Wavertree, Kent. The Steen Family, Stephen and Jacqueline, Anthony and Carolyn, Jason and Xanthe of London, Liverpool and Rustington, Sussex. Jack Sultzberger of London, E.C.2. "The Treasure Island" and "Cole" Companies at the Mermaid Theatre, Blackfriars, E.C.4. Turner Studios Ltd. of 9-12 Brandon Road, London, N.7. The staff of Ulverscroft Large Print Books Ltd. of Station Rd., Glenfield, Leics. Boys and Staff of University College School, Fringal, N.W.3. Watco (Sales) Ltd. of 56 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1. Tim and Jackie Willis of Broxton, Essex. Anthony Young Ltd. 26 Uxbridge Rd., Ealing, London, W.5. Stephen, Sheila, Tony, Stephanie, John, Kathy, Sue, Ian and all the other OUTSET organisers past and present.

This year again many friends of OUTSET have given us the cost of their Christmas cards. Their greetings, in which OUTSET joins, come instead in this space - which allows us to reprint some of Michael Flander's recent BBC Appeal. It says so much more than we can.

"I was on a Monday morning the Gasman came to call! Remember Donald Swann's and my song about all the troubles that follow when 'The Gasman Cometh'?" In these troubled times there are, unhappily, thousands of people to whom no-one ever comes. Old people, sick people, physically and mentally handicapped people; people who can't get out and who need extra help. There is at the same time a great reservoir of capable help available; chiefly from young people. About a year ago I joined the Committee of a small but, I think remarkable charity called OUTSET, which sets out to connect these willing volunteers with those who need help. Under an OUTSET organiser, groups of young people work for the community as a whole. They clean up littered beaches and beauty spots - that sort of thing - and also help individuals with work about the house and garden. In some areas, OUTSET have undertaken surveys to track down cheap housing for the homeless. But its most important and impressive work has been its surveys on behalf of local authorities - to search out people who have a right to certain extra help under the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. To put the Act into practice, a major problem had to be overcome. Many needy people are so out of touch they do not know about the new services. Of those who do, many are too shy to ask for them. So OUTSET was invited to help. The only certain solution was to call on every single address in the County or Borough and explain the help available. Up to now OUTSET has called on more than a million and a quarter households. About 45,000 people, some in desperate need, have been put in touch with help. Altogether OUTSET has channelled some 30,000 young people into useful and inspiring work and organised it all with a full-time salaried staff of only three - assisted by a dozen-or-so young people working full-time around the country.

If you, like me, feel that this practical and efficient approach to helping the old, the disabled, the whole community is something we can't do without - that OUTSET should be encouraged to carry on and expand - do please send a donation. I would like to help OUTSET continue its community work in the coming year with this donation of £... Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to OUTSET. Name: Address: (Please use BLOCK letters) OUTSET 30 Craven Street, London WC2N 6BR, 01-230 4255. Reg. Charity 251699

Appointments Vacant

GENERAL VACANCIES
ST. BASIL'S CENTRE
(Boot Night Shelter)
Birmingham
RESEARCH WORKER

Thanks to a grant received from the D.E.S. we are appointing a RESEARCH WORKER to undertake research into the use of the telephone as a means of providing a service of the emergency accommodation offered at the Boot Night Shelter.

International Youth Exchange
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER
The Youth and Community Services Department of the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges...

ACCOUNTANCY
QUALIFIED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Required by travel agent in Plymouth Circus
Salary £24,000

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS
Benenden School, Kent
APPOINTMENT TO HEADSHIP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT ALBERTA
Alberta Company requires Chartered Accountant to manage branch office in Edmonton...

EFL TUTOR
Vacancy for tutor in EFL in recognized school with range of interesting courses...

ARTICLED CLERKS AND OFFICERS
London and nationwide introduction of articled clerks...

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Reading
FIVE LECTURERSHIPS IN LAW
Applications are invited for five Lecturerships in the newly established Department of Law...

DOMESTIC SITUATIONS
WOMEN WANTED TO WORK
Wanted to work in a domestic situation in a private home...

LEGAL NOTICES
THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE

LEGAL NOTICES
THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE

LEGAL NOTICES
THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY FOR INDUSTRY AND ENERGY
Société Algérienne de Réalisations et d'Etudes Minières
NOTICE OF EXTENSION

ALREM
ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
Sole agents specializing in the following fields:
Civil Engineering, Marine, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics, Fire Treatment, Casting and Estimating

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OIL FIELDS
Yacimiento Petrolíferos
On January 25, 1975, at 14.30 Argentine time 13.30 A.M. Houston time...

PLANT AND MACHINERY
Machinery, second hand, complete and parts, for sale...

LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE MATTER OF LASTEK VARN
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named company...

SALE ROOMS

Phillips
The sale rooms will close today at 12 noon and will reopen on Monday, December 30. They will be closed on New Year's Day.
Tue., Dec. 31, 11 a.m. Good English & Continental Furniture, Works of Art, Carpets.

LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE

LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE

LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE

Secretarial and General Appointments

STELLA FISHER
IN THE STRAND AT A CROSSROADS?
Stella Fisher has a great future ahead of her...

MOTOR CARE
CHIPSTEAD OF KENSINGTON
For your NEW MERCEDES-BENZ, SAAB, VOLVO, JAGUAR, LANCIA, FIAT, ALFA ROMEO, SEAT, SKODA, VW, etc.

MEDICAL SECRETARIES
Temporary or permanent wanted now to work all over London. Phone Mrs HUBERT ALFRED MARIE BUREAU 486 6717

LEGAL SECRETARIES ALANGATE
41-40-42, 300
Conveyancing, Litigation, Court Proceedings, Probate, etc.

HAPPY NEW JOB FOR '75
Call on Clavin's at 31, 33 High Holborn, W.C.1 01-282 2021

GRADUATE GIRLS AND GRADUATE MEN
WISH EVERYONE THE BEST FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

JAYGAR CAREERS
With all their friends a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS

NEW HORIZONS
Personal Consultancy
Christmas break (after a busy year) will be spent in the New Year's resolution programme.

LAND FOR SALE
LAND WITH PLANNING PERMISSION
For Filling Station at Nine Bay Lane, Hendon, London, W.U.8

SHOPS OPEN AGAIN AFTER CHRISTMAS!
That is the time for present and future plans...

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
required by schools in Spain and Italy for the summer, Graduate or teacher trained. Experience not necessary.

TEACHER REQUIRED IN COLOGNE
6th January for 12 months. Graduate or teacher trained. German an advantage.

ROBBINS OF PUTNEY
New MGB GT
New MG B GT
New MG MGB GT

SECRETARIAL
MISS GREENS AGENCY
May we be of service to you in your search for a successful and happy career?

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
required by schools in Spain and Italy for the summer, Graduate or teacher trained. Experience not necessary.

SECRETARIAL
MISS GREENS AGENCY
May we be of service to you in your search for a successful and happy career?

SECRETARIAL
MISS GREENS AGENCY
May we be of service to you in your search for a successful and happy career?

RENTALS
KEYSTONE FOR THE complete service
275 2228/9

The Englishman's home is his...

Advertisement for 'The Englishman's home is his...' featuring various house illustrations and descriptions. Includes text like 'Victorian Gothic - every wing a different period, still complete with about 35 chimneys...' and 'Swedish modern on a new building site...'.

The Times - the paper for property. 01-857 3511

Advertisement for 'The Englishman's home is his...' featuring various house illustrations and descriptions. Includes text like 'Victorian Gothic - every wing a different period, still complete with about 35 chimneys...' and 'Swedish modern on a new building site...'.

01-857 3511

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN 24th 1974 THE ROYAL BALLET... THE ROYAL OPERA... ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA...

THEATRES

KING'S ROAD THEATRE... THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW... JOHN PAUL GEORGE RINGO & BERT... HINGE & BRACKET...

CONCERTS

MUSIC STUDIO with grand piano for hire... THE NATIONAL THEATRE...

THEATRES

ADOLPH... DR WHO & THE DALEKS... THE FREIGHT... THE FREIGHT...

CONCERTS

MUSIC STUDIO with grand piano for hire... THE NATIONAL THEATRE...

THEATRES

ADOLPH... DR WHO & THE DALEKS... THE FREIGHT... THE FREIGHT...

THEATRES

TALK OF THE TOWN... THE NATIONAL THEATRE...

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2... THE NATIONAL THEATRE... THE FREIGHT...

THE ARTS

Aspects of the playroom

Paul Overy

Childhood was an invention of the nineteenth century. Just as adolescence is an invention of the twentieth. Before the last century children were treated as miniature adults...



Henry Moore Pelvic Arch, with visitor, at the V and A

The change in attitude was the result of the dramatic fall in child mortality in the nineteenth century. One reason why children were treated as miniature adults from the beginning was that there was a strong possibility they would never become real adults...

Most of the works in the exhibition are from the nineteenth century. This is partly because so many more have survived, but also because there were so many more. The exhibition, which is mainly of paintings and illustrations on the richness of child photography...

George. Polythene mirrors vibrate and shake and distort your image when you stand on the sensors. This is placed in a performance of event for Bodily Fluids and Functions at the Round House in 1967...

There are only a few works from the twentieth century. The most recent is E. S. Lowry's Child with Doll of 1968, less mannered and more particular than Lowry's characteristic paintings...

Writing more masterly than ever

The astonished Reg

Rostropovich Maltings, Snape

The new work is even more a suite than usual, since its nine movements follow one another uninterrupted. The characteristic variations on four Russian traditional themes (three folk songs and an old hymn) which are first heard unvaried only at the end...

Elton John Odeon, Hammersmith

Back from Transatlantic flesh-pots to the native heath the loves, and which clearly loves him, is a new slim-line Elton John. Long bows of tennis with Billie Jean King have apparently taken surplus inches from his waistline...

Anthony Holden

John's performance is endearing, both for his hard work on mediocre music and an engaging acknowledgement of its limitations. His accompanying musicians are superb; he himself fiddles with the piano, swigs his wine and clowns nervously as if admitting surprise at his own enormous success...

Basil Brush's Christmas Fantasy BBC 1

should be described. Indeed, many people apparently write to Mr Roy telling him how marvellous he is because they cannot see his lips move. Roy North, however, is not a ventriloquist. This Sunday teatime was Basil's special Christmas show with Ronald Embles as the special guest star...

Stanley Reynolds

The children were out at a Christmas party on Sunday so we watch the children's party for once. I rather think Basil is too good for the kiddies anyway. He is loved in our house but most of his wit dies over their heads. And, of course, it would be impossible for them to appreciate his vulgarity, the racy sporting nature of the grotesque little fox. Basil is loud of mouth and dress, more like a comic bookmaker or some sort of racing tout than a kiddies puppet.

L'enfance du Christ Albert Hall

work, was touching, and not at all sentimental. When done in this infinite manner, L'enfance du Christ is not the piece to fill the Albert Hall with sound (nor, on this occasion, with audience, which was a pity), but its higher reaches did provide the opportunity for the angelic voices to sound properly celestial.

Paul Griffiths

Berlioz's little oratorio is an uncharacteristically restrained piece, and it was the pastoral quality of the music that Neville Marriner brought gently to the fore on Sunday evening. The London Symphony Orchestra responded with softly shaded playing of great beauty, and the LSO Chorus managed, despite their numbers, to clear yet hushed tones. Their performance of the shepherds' chorus of farewell, the centrepiece of the

London debuts

Nothing was more to the credit of the Australian, Ruth Hecht, in her piano recital at the Percussion Room than the way she sustained interest throughout four of Messiaen's long early Preludes (1928-29). Because her imagination really took fire from his imagery, there was nothing her fingers would not do for her. The eight dolls of Villa-Lobos's The Baby's Family came up with equal fervour, though with a certain lack of imagination, though with a certain lack of imagination, though with a certain lack of imagination...

Pieter Sfontein

When his voice was comfortably placed in the middle register, with simple story-telling of more importance than soaring cantilena or extremities of passion, then his response to atmosphere could be enjoyed as much as Peter Cornelius's Die Wacht am Rhein, Op. 8, and Wolf's 'Epphonia', with particularly attractive board help from the reliable Antony Saunders in the last.

Find a buyer in The Times

Find a buyer in The Times. Ring 01-837 3311. Peter Nichols comedy The Freeway. Irene Handl is as gorgeously Irene Handl as ever. Last Performances.

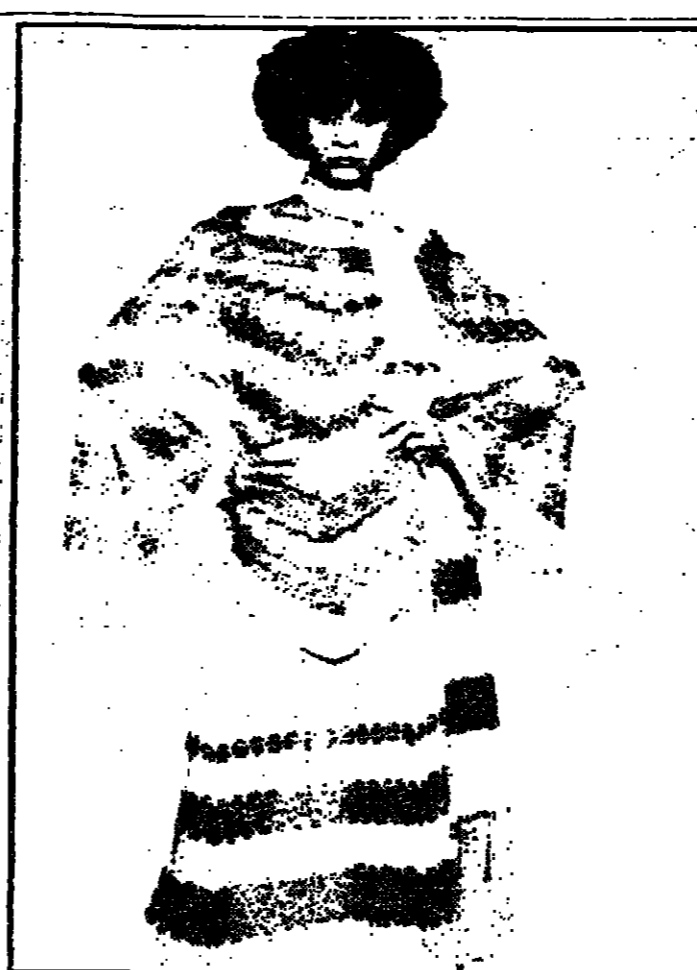
The National Theatre at the Old Vic 928 7616. Tonight 7.30 Boxing Day 2.15 & 7.30. Peter Nichols comedy The Freeway. Irene Handl is as gorgeously Irene Handl as ever. Last Performances.





# Fashion

by Prudence Glynn



Out of season clothes for the winter traveller.

Centre: Long, sleeveless cotton dress in a Liberty Print, with 4 pleats at the front of the skirt, narrow straps and square neck, under a plain cotton bolero. Called "Chilton Rhodes" by Jeff Banks. Price: £95, from an exclusive selection at his shop, 27, Duke Street, London, W1.

Far left: Button through polyester satin housegown by David Nieper. Style 895. Sizes WMS and WX both approx £26. Colours white, pink and silver, from Harrods housecoat department, Rackhams of Birmingham, and other good stores.

Left: White and blue rayon and lurex lacey poncho with matching ankle length skirt and long scarf. Designed and knitted by Esther Pearson. For details please contact her at Stroud Green Road, London N4. Tel.: 01-263 1482.

Photographs by Peter Akehurst.

## What would Actors Equity have to say?

am not a socially competitive aren't. Indeed, to so fine an effort I got the delegation of the hospitable niceties that when I happened to answer the door bell the other day I was amazed to hear from a stranger on the steps that she had come to collect her child who had been having tea with us. I tried to course to look as though I knew all about it, but the situation was not enhanced by the fact that the only reason I was at all was because I was in the middle of making strips of ebbing across the seat of the drawing room sofa which had tely fallen through. This all seemed too complicated to explain to the visitor and anyway I sofa, unmasked from its app cover, is not a pretty sight, so I left her in the hall while I went belowstairs to find it if indeed we had an extra child around. We had, but when the man led him away something in her expression suggested that further invitations to a house where the door was opened by someone carrying a summer who patently had no idea of the previous responsibility having tea with her and no further left her visitors in the hall might not be thought of.

However, when it comes to all scale entertainment I can make an effort to be original. Once everyone round us goes to the same parties they get through a fair number of jugglers and entertainers and dim shows and bossy middle aged lady party organisers in a row, so finding something which the children have not seen before, which is suitable, and which you can afford is a poser. I cast my mind about, rather I cast my eyes about a magazine called *The Stage*, any reading more poignant? When the starburst turns to saw-just, when the name in lights is ever yours, then you take a title ad in *The Stage*. Kings of the Clarinet. Princes of the Augher. Novelty Juggling entertainers. Novelty and singing Accordionists, people with their Own Organ, all make believe life is there. You can have roller skaters or fire wallowers, or stunt bicyclists areering round your sitting room, which may be why lots of he acts have "audience participation" in small type at the bottom, so that if they land by mistake in someone's lap they can say it was all part of the act.

Most of the entertainments offered were quite unsuitable for the modern child, but tucked in among Mr and Mrs Entertainment, and Mr Variety, and the belly dancers was a little dog who did tricks. For an audience of eight year olds, what better. I telephoned her agent, having selected an animal act, was then filled with doubt about the morality of training beasts to perform. All sorts of cruel stories came into my mind—had not Colton been sickened by the cruelty of the circus, who was the French magician whose best trick depended on the audience's humane assumption that the little birds he used survived the performance? They did not. Nightly they were crushed to death and replaced next day for a few sou's in the market. However, I told myself that since

the English are invariably kinder to their animals than to each other I could not be fostering a foul trade. When I booked my dog act the owner certainly did not sound the sort to use an electric goad. As a matter of fact, he did tell my husband that the training time could be cut in half if you used a stick (which naturally he had not) but luckily I did not hear this till it was all over and the star's mini-apparatus stowed in her modest transport.

It was when I was discussing the finer arrangements for the party that I became aware of a piercing lambent gaze on my back and turned round to find our cat listening to every word. His later life had been irradiated by a romance of epic proportions with the very person I was talking to, and what with being loyal to me too and acting as the perfect major domo to the household he found life pretty tiring and needed 22 hours sleep a day. However, his sense of when to be awake was uncanny, and so there he was, staring at us in outrage with "DOG-Vulgar Tricks—In My House" written all over his face. Hastily we explained that it was just a small dog, a dog with people to keep, a dog who had to work for her living. Somewhat mollified he padded out and could be seen under the hydrangeas boasting to his friends that you would never catch him jumping through hoops for a livelihood.

At noon prompt on the day of the party he took up a position in the front row of the stalls, eyes slitted with suspicion. But his nerve was not what it was, and after weaving dizzily about among the plates holding the birthday tea (I thought he had licked the chocolate buns, but the rough-cast texture on the icing turned out to be cocoa, not tongue-marks) he retired upstairs. At 12.30 the Star's owner telephoned to ask if we had a carpet. It turned out that he was not concerned with the quality of our Aubussons, if any, but merely anxious that his dog should not break her neck on the parquet. At four o'clock Mr and Mrs Owner appeared with a large and rather cowed looking black and white sheep-dog type dog and were hustled in unceremoniously. Mrs Owner said where could she change? Change? Great Heavens, surely she was not going to get into spangles and a tu-tu? But, no, it was a neat dress. The star's cowed look turned out to be nothing but pre-performance nerves—she was as strung up as a high-wire act when we thrust her and Mr Owner into the guests' cloakroom while we loosed the children into the drawing room. Then we were away, with a real hit on our hands.

And puss? While the dog sprinted gamely round the Blüthner below, keeping her friends in limelight and hairlye Oscar, normally the mostregarious character snored upstairs wearing the expression of a cat who has had a canary or two in his time. He never looked to see that we were doing everything properly, he never put a whisker round the door. But next morning he went out very early and beat the daylight's out of his harmless and deferential ginger pal from across the road.

Issued at the request of Gold Fields of South Africa Limited and Union Corporation Limited by Hill Samuel & Co. Limited, Hanabros Bank Limited and Barclays National Merchant Bank Limited.

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# RECOMMENDED OFFER

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**GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED**

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(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

FOR

**UNION CORPORATION LIMITED**

("UNICORP")

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

The Boards of GFSa and Unicorp announce that the Offer Document incorporating GFSa's Recommended Offer has been posted to registered shareholders of Unicorp.

THE IMPROVED OFFER IS:-

For every 100 Ordinary Shares in Unicorp	6 New GFSa Ordinary Shares plus 7 New GFSa Convertible Preference Shares plus R120 IN CASH
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You may elect to receive

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ADDITIONAL CASH INSTEAD OF GFSa ORDINARY SHARES

or

ADDITIONAL GFSa ORDINARY SHARES INSTEAD OF CASH

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ADDITIONAL CASH TO THE VALUE OF £203  
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For every 100 Unicorp shares

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who may elect to receive  
ADDITIONAL GFSa ORDINARY SHARES WORTH R141  
INSTEAD OF CASH TO THE VALUE OF R120  
For every 100 Unicorp shares

TO SECURE THE RIGHTS OF ELECTION YOU MUST ACCEPT THE OFFER NOT LATER THAN 10th JANUARY 1975.

THE BOARD OF UNICORP AND THEIR ADVISERS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMEND UNICORP SHAREHOLDERS TO ACCEPT.

JOHANNESBURG  
23rd DECEMBER 1974

See page 16





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

RESOURCES OF THE SPIRIT

Today Pope Paul VI inaugurates the twenty-fifth Holy Year to be celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church...

less than for the children of light, to cultivate interior resources...

understood as instrumental to his needs. The second suggested that human rationality and ingenuity...

A Holy Year magnifies the place of Rome in the Christian Church, and by extension the papal primacy...

The springs of individual action are not, however, simply continuous with the springs of collective action...

The attitudes which might fix this emerging understanding of modern man's predicament...

They will take more encouragement from the emphasis Pope Paul has been placing in his preliminary exhortations...

Acquisitive drives are deeply institutionalized in politics, commerce and organized labour...

The belief that it is possible was cradled both by a particular theological world view...

COMMAS DO MATTER IN DIPLOMACY

When western political leaders met Mr Brezhnev they find themselves pressed to say something optimistic about the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe...

new impetus by cutting through the knots tied by meticulous officials. The Americans were particularly impatient because they felt that the talks were allowing a lot of minor European countries to obstruct the majestic progress of détente...

are prepared to fight hard for certain formulations. For instance, they have been trying to avoid a commitment to publishing the results of the conference in full...

A similar pattern has been repeated this month. After Mr Brezhnev's visit to Paris the joint communiqué contained phrases which the Russians, with a little bending and stretching, are now interpreting as a French commitment to an early summit conference...

American attitudes are now changing with a change of President partly because the west Europeans have refused to forget that the conference is committed to working out a set of principles governing relations among the countries of east and west Europe...

Without their farmers would not be shielded from the harsh realities of the open labour market. That is why they fight tooth and nail to retain control over them and those who dwell in them...

These differences have a number of causes. One of them is the tendency of political leaders to become impatient with points of fraying over minute points of heretofore negotiable issues.

Doubtless they will try again when they meet Mr Wilson next year. It is therefore important for western politicians to see that the long delays in Geneva have not been caused solely by the finicky exactitude of officials...

These texts will become basic documents in European relations. They will be referred to and argued about for many years. They will not instantly transform the situation. They may have scarcely any noticeable effect at first...

treatment of dissidents

from Mr Lea Ben Dor The misleading quotation from the Parliamentary report of mine in the Jerusalem Post of November 8...

locked up in a mental hospital because they disagreed with official Soviet policy, because the Russians said they were crazy...

County Court bailiffs

from Mr M. R. Turner Sir, The Law Society opposes the County Court Bailiff system being extended to the High Court...

I am truly amazed that the noble and totally fails to recognize irony when he meets it; we tend to consider it an English speciality.

The criticism was voiced in a discussion in the Knesset (parliament) on the recent promotion to full professor at the Hebrew University of Shalom Shalom...

A financial institution uses savings to finance assets. It runs into difficulty when these assets, however good, cease to be realizable within the time span of the financing institution's resources...

Increases in top salaries

from Mr Ian Galt, Conservative MP for Eastbourne Sir, By common consent, we are facing our gravest economic crisis ever...

Editors and the closed shop

from the Secretary of State for Employment Sir, Since you persist in misrepresenting in your columns both the purpose and possible effects of the proposed...

British Rail and the art market

from Mr J. E. Humphrey Sir, I go with Geraldine Norman and Mr Ray Buckton (December 21) in questioning the investment antics of the British Rail Pension Fund...

Farm worker's lot

from Mr Wilfred E. Cave Sir, Farmworkers were 'notoriously underpaid' claimed Mr Bottini of the National Union of Agricultural Workers in his letter to you (November 28)...

Perhaps instead of misleading our readers by reports covering so many other aspects of the issues affecting a free press, you might have related what happened in this country prior to 1971.

from Mr W. Leggatt Robinson Sir, While not presuming to question the conclusions of your Sale Room Correspondent in her article of December 21, I beg to suggest that the 1925 purchase of a Gainsborough was not quite such a good example...

Broadcasting watchdog

from Lord Willis Sir, Mrs Mary Whitehouse's demand that the BBC should open its books, raises an interesting point about her organization The National Viewers' and Listeners' Association...

Raising money to restore cathedrals

from the Rev N. Allen Birtwhistle Sir, So the appeal for funds to restore Canterbury Cathedral is being attacked with arguments similar to those that have been used against the Wesleyan Chapel...

£40,000 will be needed to secure this tower and spire during the next few years and this presents us with a dilemma of having to divert sources of financial support for the tower and spire which have no direct reference to the real purpose for which the cathedral exists...

City and British Leyland

from Mr G. F. M. P. Thompson Sir, Does Mr Roger Marsh (December 12) appreciate that the problems of financial institutions and the problems of industrial enterprises have different causes calling for different remedies?

Its ministry has seized the opportunity of the rebirth of the cathedral to extend as widely and as deeply as possible the efforts in the direction of financial support for such an endeavour at a time of opportunity...

Old tube stations

from Councillor Joan Russell Sir, May I clarify a point made in a letter in your columns from Mr Robinson, Managing Director of London Transport (December 4) which stated that planning permission was still awaited for the greatly needed improvements at Gloucester Road tube station...

In answer to our entreaties the Customs and Excise inspectors insist that Cathedrals are for the propagation of religion, and that we cannot expect the rebates normally given to businesses. This is not good enough. They know that we are in business too—properly registered—coping with the thousands of visitors who arrive.

From the Treasurer of Ely Cathedral

Sir, Immediate State help could be given in some Cathedrals if the Chancellor returned a fair proportion of the VAT being levied on repairs. Since the Spring of last year we have paid almost £20,000 in tax on the work being done on the great tower of Ely Cathedral...

Two-thirds of our working day is spent in providing facilities for them and two-thirds of our staff salaries go to provide the essential personnel—the maintenance men, the vergers, the cleaners and the gardeners. A generous refund of VAT on repairs would give relief to our Cathedral and encouragement to others.

Functions of a university

from Professor Percival Allen, FRS Sir, A university is primarily a research institution. Secondly, it provides thereby an environment where students serve their intellectual apprenticeships. Thirdly, a university is a major source of service and advice in the public sector.

Twisting property owners' tails and trying to squeeze out more and more, in this case the highly reputable Legal and General Assurance, is becoming a dangerous sport and this application further illustrates the need either for the abolition of the GLC or a drastic reorganization and a reduction in the number of staff and staff-related costs.

Buses in Conroy

from Mr Andrew Abdella Sir, Mr J. B. Turner snappily ob-serves in his letter (December 18) that since London Transport adopted the Conroy system a bus has been lost. It is equally fair to say that many have been missed.



SPORT

Rugby Union

Even higher honours beckon as Cotton is appointed leader

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
From Cotton, the Coventry, Lancashire and British Lions prop...



Wordsworth: confidence in his potential should boost his morale.

Stevens' back strain and Ralston's...
The fact that their party...
includes five lock forwards...

Boyle comes in for Scottish tour

By Peter West
For those rugby followers who...
have been waiting for a chance...

Spin on a wearing pitch gives England best hope of victory

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Melbourne, Dec 23
In so far as they can be, after...

Rackets

Nicholls joins elite

tonian club

Our Rackets Correspondent
Mark Nicholls (Alverton) became...
a third player to join the elite...

Football

A West Ham ready to talk turkey

By Gerry Harrison

Boxing Day football matches have...
always had a special appeal. On...

Squash rackets

A repeat 3-1 success for Pakistan

By Rex Bellamy

Squash Rackets Correspondent
Pakistan achieved a surprising...
3-1 lead over Britain in the...

Schools team to meet FA Youth XI

The Amateur Football Association...

The Amateur Football Association...
to play an FA Youth XI at...

Yesterday's results

Third division

Southend 1-1 Aldershot (1)
Barnet 1-2 Bradford (1)
Barnet 1-2 Bradford (1)...

Schools team to meet FA Youth XI

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Latest snow reports

Depth (cm)

Table with columns for location, depth, conditions, weather, and wind.

Ludlow results

12.30 (12.30) BURUNDY STERILE...

12.30 (12.30) BURUNDY STERILE...
CHASE (Novice) (12.30)...

Other results

12.30 (12.30) BURUNDY STERILE...

12.30 (12.30) BURUNDY STERILE...
CHASE (Novice) (12.30)...

Boxing Day fixtures

First division

Table listing football fixtures for the first division.

Second division

Table listing football fixtures for the second division.

Third division

Table listing football fixtures for the third division.

Skill takes second place to determination

By Norman Creek

Public Schools 3 FA Youth XI 2
When he presented the cups at...

Public Schools 3 FA Youth XI 2

When he presented the cups at...
the schools six a side tournament...

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SPORT

Racing

Forecasting Soothsayer to follow home Pencil Clear Cut can never be left out of the reckoning

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent
Pencil will become the first horse to win the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park three times if he is successful there again on Boxing Day. When he won it last year he equalled Halloween's and Mandarin's feat, having won it the year before as well.

who did after all beat the Dikler by five lengths to win the Gold Cup at Cheltenham in March, as Pencil lay prostrate on the ground, having been brought down by High Ken three fences from home.

the Ebor Handicap at York this summer, but he lacks the experience of Bell Bryn and Present Arms who were both successful on the same afternoon at Sandown Park in the autumn.

country last season with six victories in a row followed by a second to the Irish horse, Ten Up, in the £3,000 Sun Alliance Steeplechase at Cheltenham, has plenty to do with 12th lb, but he has earned into 4th place in the three-mile Rowland Meyrick Steeplechase on Thursday.

Kempton Park programme

Table listing racing programmes for Kempton Park, including 1.15 HOLLY STEEPLECHASE, 1.45 WILLIAM HILL CHRISTMAS HURDLE, 2.30 KING GEORGE VI STEEPLECHASE, 2.50 NATION RANGERS HURDLE, 3.20 BOXING DAY HURDLE.

Wolverhampton programme

Table listing racing programmes for Wolverhampton, including 1.0 NETHERTON HURDLE, 1.30 HARRY BROWN STEEPLECHASE, 2.0 DEEPFIELDS STEEPLECHASE, 2.30 WALSALL HURDLE, 3.0 WREKIN HURDLE.

Huntingdon programme

Table listing racing programmes for Huntingdon, including 1.0 BOXING DAY STEEPLECHASE, 1.30 THRASPURD HURDLE, 2.0 PEPSY STEEPLECHASE, 2.30 TOWN HOLME STEEPLECHASE.

Newton Abbot programme

Table listing racing programmes for Newton Abbot, including 1.0 MID DEYON STEEPLECHASE, 1.30 CHRISTMAS HURDLE, 2.0 WEST COUNTRY STEEPLECHASE, 2.30 SOUTH DEVON HURDLE.

Kempton Park selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
12.45 Corriehill, 1.15 Star Pearl, 1.45 Tree Tangle, 2.30 Pencil, 2.50 Present Arms, 3.20 TAMMIZU is specially recommended.

Wincanton programme

Table listing racing programmes for Wincanton, including 1.0 LEVY BOARD STEEPLECHASE, 1.30 JOE CORAL HURDLE, 2.0 JOE CORAL HURDLE, 2.30 JOE CORAL HURDLE, 3.0 STIRRUP-CUP HURDLE.

Wolverhampton selections

By Our Racing Staff
12.30 Near and Far, 1.0 Corriehill, 1.30 Vulturan, 2.0 Winald, 2.30 ZETA'S SON is specially recommended, 3.0 Complutia.

Sedgefield programme

Table listing racing programmes for Sedgefield, including 1.25 HARDWICK HURDLE, 1.55 MORDON HURDLE, 2.15 ROLL UP STEEPLECHASE, 3.15 MORDON HURDLE.

Huntingdon selections

By Our Racing Staff
12.30 Callie, 1.0 Dallyvalde, 1.30 Datz, 2.0 Last Crack, 2.30 Even Sail, 3.0 Conceded.

Market Rasen programme

Table listing racing programmes for Market Rasen, including 1.30 MUCH OBLIGED HURDLE, 2.0 ACCURATE HURDLE, 2.30 BRUCE CARR STEEPLECHASE, 3.0 ACCURATE HURDLE.

Newton Abbot selections

By Our Racing Staff
12.30 Call Me King, 1.0 Cleo Baby, 1.30 Angel Abroad, 2.0 Plus l'ulsi, 2.30 Never Wrong, 3.0 Gone For A Burton.

Wetherby programme

Table listing racing programmes for Wetherby, including 1.30 BRADFORD HURDLE, 2.0 YORK STEEPLECHASE, 2.30 BRADFORD HURDLE, 3.0 BRADFORD HURDLE.

Wincanton selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
12.30 Philip the Bold, 1.0 Bighland Abbe, 1.30 Mac's Birthday, 2.0 NEON STAR is specially recommended, 2.30 Land Lark, 3.0 Mama Roux.

Sedgefield selections

By Our Racing Staff
12.45 Callie, 1.15 Donnhill, 1.45 Straight Lemon, 2.15 Wyse Hill, 2.45 Clarina, 3.15 Breakaduck.

Market Rasen selections

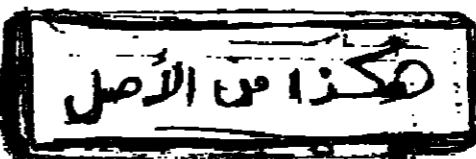
By Our Racing Staff
12.30 Blaway, 1.0 Marshall Kil, 1.30 Drumador, 2.0 Hilda's Hurricane, 2.30 Brawly Lad, 3.0 Merry Crown.

Wetherby selections

By Our Racing Staff
12.30 Rustic Prince, 1.0 EASBY ABBEY is specially recommended, 1.30 Greystock Rambler, 2.0 Clear Cut, 2.30 Young Somers, 3.0 Wylam.



For Saving Investing and House-Purchase HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY



For Saving Investing and House-Purchase HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

Requests for state aid pour in as pressure on costs and profitability intensifies

By Maurice Corina Industrial Editor. The queue of industrial companies seeking state assistance is growing sharply as a result of the intensifying pressures on costs and profitability.

This huge surge in requests to the Government for taxpayer help comes on top of the much-publicized cases of a handful of companies seeking Section 8 assistance, ranging from Alfred Herbert to Ferranti and British Leyland.

Settlement likely in US air rebates row

By Arthur Reed Air Correspondent. A settlement now appears to be in sight in a long-standing United States investigation of illegal rebates paid by a number of large foreign airlines to travel agents.

Go-ahead for Lonrho's Sudan sugar project

By John Woodland. Lonrho, the Pan-African trading conglomerate, has been given the go-ahead for its \$180m (£77m) sugar project in Sudan. It is claimed it will be the largest single sugar estate in the world.

Mr Varley decides to wait as garages ignore the 10p limit

By Edward Townsend. The Department of Energy is not yet considering the reimposition of price controls on petrol despite the fact that garages throughout the country have ignored government pleas not to increase prices by more than 10p a gallon.

Sindona bank faces interest rate inquiry

From John Earle Rome, Dec 23. Several Italian public corporations are involved in allegations that Banca Sindona, a member of the collapsed Sindona group, paid secret, supplementary interest rates on their deposit accounts with the bank.

Cut in oil imports aids France

A drop in oil imports in November substantially helped France's foreign trade position as the month's actual purchasing into a small surplus on an unadjusted basis, official sources said.

Glimmer of hope in Courtaulds dispute

A glimmer of hope emerged in the Courtaulds dispute at Grimsby yesterday when Mr Percy Brewer, Courtaulds' works manager, said that he was willing to meet the unions at any time.



Mr Michael Posner to join Treasury

Mr Michael Posner (above), lecturer in economics and chairman of the faculty board of economics and politics of Cambridge University, and fellow and director of studies in economics at Pembroke College, has been appointed deputy chief economic adviser to the Treasury.

Adelaide SE fines director of Poseidon

From Our Correspondent Adelaide, Dec 23. Mr Norman Shierlaw, whose name was most frequently linked with the Poseidon share boom four years ago, has been fined for three months by the Stock Exchange in Adelaide, from where the company operates.

Clamp down on forged trans-European permits

By Clifford Webb. Scotland Yard is being supported by the Department of the Environment to stop British haulage companies using forged international permits to evade the booming trans-European trucking business.

Car output in Europe continues to decline

Parl., Dec 23.—French motor industry exports weakened only slightly in the first 11 months of 1974 while production declined 5 per cent in volume and new car registrations dropped 13.9 per cent during the same period, the industry federation said today.

Aluminium output up

Primary aluminium production in the non-communist world rose by 7.3 per cent last month over November, 1973, to 15,000 tonnes, the International Aluminium Institute reported yesterday.

EEC calls for shares ban in French takeover battle

Paris, Dec 23.—The Paris Stock Brokers Association has suspended trading in Marine-Firminy shares following intervention by the Commission of the European Economic Community, the association said today.

GM 'disagrees' with finding

Antwerp, Dec 23.—General Motors Continental said today that it "strongly disagrees" with the European Economic Community Commission finding that its Belgian unit violated competition rules in the EEC.

Kuwait has liquidity problem

Despite earning about \$8,000m from oil revenue in 1974, Kuwait has faced a liquidity shortage since May, say financial sources. This has meant a cutback in lending by banks and a fall in share prices.

Ceremony for first platinum assay hallmark

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths is inviting 800 manufacturing jewellers and watchmakers to Goldsmiths Hall on January 2 to witness the marking of the first pieces of platinum tested by the London Assay Office under the new Hallmarking Act.

Car output in Europe continues to decline

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Nigeria loan to IMF

The International Monetary Fund has completed arrangements to borrow credits worth \$20m from Nigeria to help to finance oil credits to other countries. The World Bank has also borrowed \$240m from Nigeria at 8 per cent interest.

Italy cuts bank rate to 8pc to boost exports and jobs

Rome, Dec 23.—Italy's bank rate will be reduced to 8 per cent from 9 per cent, the Treasury Ministry announced today. The change will take effect from Friday.

Arab eyes on Borel

Jacques Borel, the French hotel group, is negotiating with Arab interests who are considering associating themselves with the group's activities and possibly taking a share stake.

Money supply figures clarified

Because of errors in the Bank of England money supply statistics, published on Monday, it was necessary to withhold our regular table. Following clarification of the official figures the table now appears below.

NCB chief promises miners top place in wages league

By David Young. Sir Derek Ezra, National Coal Board chairman, yesterday told miners in Scotland that recent improved coal output has increased hopes that the target of 120 million tons being produced in the year ending in March can be reached.

Chloride rights issue

About 25 per cent of Chloride Group's 17m one-for-four rights issue at 40p a share has been taken up by shareholders. The remaining 65 per cent has been taken up by the underwriters.

Nation Life liquidator granted extension

An extension to run Nation Life Assurance as a going concern for another three months has been granted to Mr Gerry Weiss, the liquidator.

Keyser Ullmann profit well down in half year

Profits of Keyser Ullmann Holdings, the merchant banking group, were "substantially less" in the half year to the end of September than those in the corresponding half last year.

On other pages

- Appointments vacant 16, 18
Financial news 16, 18
Wall Street 18
Unit trust prices 18
Market reports 18
Share prices 19
Bank Base Rates Table 18
Company Notices: C.F.S.A. 16

How the markets moved

Table with columns for Rises, Falls, and Money Supply. Includes data for Beecham, ICI, and other companies.

THE POUND

Table showing exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Yugoslavia.

Money supply figures clarified

Table showing Money Supply figures for M1, M3, and E2000m for the years 1973, 1974, and 1975.

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Money supply figures clarified

Table showing Money Supply figures for M1, M3, and E2000m for the years 1973, 1974, and 1975.

A FINANCIAL PANTOMIME

Babes in the Wood OR Great Britain on Ice

Act I, sc 1:

The curtain rises on a scene of primeval gloom. The time is the beginning of the three-day year 1974, and the whole stage is plunged in darkness and despair.

Thus plunged in dark and penury. We thought to climb the index high To Treasure Islands in the sky; But as we climbed Inflation roared About its roots, where money poured To feed our growth, but fuelled its greed—

Sudden cries of battle. Enter a victorious army from the Left, with King Harold at its head. HAROLD: "Why shiver here in darkling wood? A Labour draught will do you good. The Blues are gone. We'll make all bright. Go! End the strikes! Let there be light!"

Act I, sc 2:

The babes are still bewitched, their miserably belonging shrunk even smaller. Enter Denis the Menace, who rushes up to the Babes, embracing them with mock affection.

But shadows of yourselves of yore. Come to my arms—no need to shriek— (Aside to audience) I'll squawk! The little dears! They've money yet— Trainers of capital I'm set To tax away. I'll clinch the squeeze With surcharges on companies. I'll act on ACT and milk 'em dry.

DRAMATIS PERSONNAE:

- The Babes
Big Benn
Denis the Menace
Widow Twankey
The Teddy Bears
Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves
The Mad Hatter
Poore Dennis of Mediden
King Harold
Dame Threadneedle
Uncle Relever
AND
Making his first ever stage appearance
Sir Loan Ryder on the Pantomime Horse - NEB "



Exit Denis the Menace, stage left. THE BABES: "O! the days when bulls roamed, frisking through the land, all fortune risking On tip, or rumour, or p.p.t! Then for dividends fast growing— Cover strong and prospects glowing— None like Twankey's Laundry! 'We wash it Whyter'—was her credo To her clients' ecstasy. Come! We'll comfort find at Twankey's Chinese Laundry—"

Act I, sc 3:

Triumphal entry to Twankey's Laundry. WIDOW: "I've your shirts, I've your deposits, I'm authorized, babes, don't fret! But all is lost, for all is over At Widow Twankey's Laundry—"

As the Babes nervously approach Dame Threadneedle's residence, there comes the sound of a rumpus in nearby Throgmorton Street. CHORUS OF BEARS: "If you come down to the Stock Exchange, you're in for a big surprise. If you come down to the Stock Exchange, you'll never believe your eyes."

For every bear that ever there was Is at the Stock Exchange, because This is the year the teddy bears have their picnic! If you need quick relief today, we'll offer you breakfast and bed, It's a capital way of taking a loss, and it's yet to be hit on the head. And every bear that ever there was

Supplies of money dribble through. BABES: "Alas! alas! what shall we do?" DAME: "Away! You'll never whine or whesdle. Your way around stout Dame Threadneedle!"

Act III, sc 1:

Babes mend their sad way through the City of London. Shed tears here, good reader, for fresh perils await them. Enter Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves (alias the OPEC horde).

ALI BABA, etc (To the tune of "A bicycle made for two"): "Babies, babies, come and recycle, do. We'll buy assets, and sing desert songs in lieu. Although at Teh'ran you fought us, We've oil for troubled waters, And we'll C.U., whatever you do, for as far as it goes to. Babies, babies, come and recycle, do. We'll buy Daimlers, and London blocks from you. As capitalists we look funny, And we ain't so keen on your money, But just Kuwait, we've got a date, with Dame Threadneedle, too. Babies, babies, come and recycle, do. It may sound crazy, but we're being nice to you. For the loan of Emir £2 billion You can jump, and we'll dance a cotillion. And ring the till, for our interest will inevitably accrue."

Act II, sc 1:

At Dame Threadneedle's. The Dame, with cronies, sits knitting. DAME: "Away! Be off! I've sought for you. I'm knitting here with Grand'ma Pru As read Sir Kenneth Corpe chops down The bankruptcies and spivs of Town. That was a secondary!— Go! Tap stocks are off, and much too low"

Act IV, sc 1:

Babes, in jinal desperation, stumble upon the Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Westminster. Out of his magic cabinet (now you see him, now you don't!) steps Big Benn, shadowed by Uncle Relever who looks unconvinced. BIG BENN: "In for a penny, in for a pound. I like scattering largesse round."

POORE DENNIS: "I'm Ferocious, I need cash! You promised it..." POORE DENNIS: "Enough of you, your trouble's small. We stand to lose, go to the wall. Our orders hover, cash funds sink In debt we're at the very brink— Oh! lead us hence, for here we lead you..."

Answers to thousands of questions like these can be found in the current issue of The Times 1000, available from leading booksellers or from Times Newspapers Ltd, 32 Wharf Road, London, N1 7SD, £2.50 plus 25p postage and packing.

Act IV, sc 2:

The end seems high. Enter (as if inspired) the Pantomime Horse "NEB". On his back is Sir Loan Ryder. "Who's it? Nobby! Whoops! That should be Nebby!" (Aside to audience) "Well, they're all from the same stable, aren't they?"

Business News Christmas Quiz

- 1. Which industrial or commercial grouping is Britain's biggest employer? a. Barclay's Bank b. British Leyland Motor Company c. The Post Office
2. Which is Britain's most efficient company as measured by return on capital employed? a. Fluor (England) b. Coral (Holdings) c. Roche Products
3. How many nationalized industries lost money in 1973-74? a. One b. Five c. Seven
4. Which is biggest in terms of sales? a. "Shell" Transport and Trading b. Standard Oil of California c. Nippon Oil
5. Which British bank trading mainly overseas makes the most profit? a. Lloyds Bank International b. Standard and Chartered Banking Group c. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
6. Which is Germany's biggest chemical company? a. Bayer AG b. BASFAG c. Farbwerke Hoechst AG
7. Which is biggest? a. The British Steel Corporation b. August Thyssen Hütte AG of Germany c. Nippon Steel
8. Who is the major shareholder in: a. Consolidated Tin Smelters b. Marks and Spencer c. Tower Kensley & Millbourn (Holding)
9. Which British company has most managing directors and how many? a. British & Commonwealth Shipping b. British Petroleum c. British Enkalon
10. Did the average return on assets for Britain's top thousand commercial and industrial companies rise or fall between 1972 and 73? a. Honeywell b. British Petroleum c. Rio Tinto Zinc
11. Which British company recorded the biggest absolute rise in profits in 1973-74? a. Navcot Shipping for Shipping Industrial b. P&O for Bovis Holdings c. Gear Universal Stores for Lennards

FINANCIAL NEWS

European ban on beef and veal imports topples J E Sanger midway profit

Dropping short of its prospectus forecast in the year to March 31, interim figures for meat traders J. E. Sanger for the six months to September 30 slumped heavily—thanks to the total ban on beef and veal imports into the EEC. Turnover was more than halved to £14.14m on which pre-tax profit collapsed from £396,000 to £163,000, and the "attributable" from £359,000 to £73,000. An interim dividend of 1.12p, payable February 24, is proposed. The European ban, extended indefinitely, continues severely to restrict group trading. Its effect on the result of 1974 worsened by uncertainty in the trade over the agricultural policy of the EEC, continued placing of beef into intervention stocks, and overall fall in demand. However, Mr J. E. Sanger, chairman, says the group's flexibility in organization is beginning to take effect in the second half, and trading generally has shown some recovery in recent months.

Samuel Props' sails trimmed

Samuel Properties, which earlier this month announced a £42m funding operation, disclosed in its annual report that year-end net assets were down from 107p to 81p a share. This largely reflected a revaluation of the group's United Kingdom investment properties at £321m—some £7.3m below former book value.

Midland in new consortium

In its latest venture, the Midland Bank has taken a 15 per cent stake in Banque Europeene Pour l'Amerique Latine, which has been established to take the place of Banque Italo-Belge—the main shareholders of which were Societa Generale, Banque de Credito Italiano, and Credit Suisse. In the new arrangement, these are joined by Midland, Amsterdam-Rotterdam, Bank, Societe Generale, Paris, and Banco Espanol de Credito.

Loss by Polly Peck

Because of a deficit from the property division, Polly Peck Holdings, the asset value is also 2p a share.

Issues & Loans

Another trust repays loans. New York & Garmore Investment Trust has joined the growing number of trusts repaying loans. It has arranged repayment of £2m of sterling deposit and £6.5m of dollar loans, leaving respectively £2.75m and £7m of loans outstanding.

Both the deposit and the loan were arranged for a period of five years to November, 1977, at fixed rates of interest. The dollar loan currently shows a shortage of some £200,000 at current rates of investment currency in relation to its holdings of American securities and cash. After deducting this contingent liability, the asset value is also 2p a share.

Sime Darby's \$5.5m disposal

Sime Darby has accepted offer from the Glencon Corporation for its Woodward Dickerson subsidiaries, deal in fertilizer and allied products. The purchase price is £15.5m cash (£2.9m) payable completion on January 31, \$7.5m cash of which \$3.5m he paid in January and balance in two equal instalments one year and two years later. Sime Darby will continue trade in fertilizers on a workable basis as it did before purchase of Woodward Dickerson in March last year.

United Artists move to block possible bid

In an attempt to block apparent takeover attempt Hanson Trust, which now has 25 per cent of the equity, United Artists Theatre Circuit has filed a suit in a United States District Court. UATC says that its directors beneficially hold 42 per cent of the equity and, in addition, officers of the company hold another 3 per cent.

Moss Bros side

Due in the main to intercharges, which rose by £68m profits of Moss Bros were £108,000 to £52,000 in the nine months to October 26. There is no dividend (£1.8p), but a final will be paid earlier than usual, probably at the beginning of July. In late dealings on the market the shares dipped 4p to 26p.

French DM issue

Caisse Nationale des Autorites de France will shortly issue DM100m seven-year loan, with proposed coupon of 9 1/2 per cent. The issue price has yet to be set by co-managers are Westdeutsche Allgemeine Bank, Deutsche Kommunalbank-Deutsches Girozentrale. A further Commonwealth Australia DM loan may be floated in the New Year. Australia has a DM200m 10 per cent six-year loan at 9 1/2 per cent. October 26. There is no dividend (£1.8p), but a final will be paid earlier than usual, probably at the beginning of July. In late dealings on the market the shares dipped 4p to 26p.

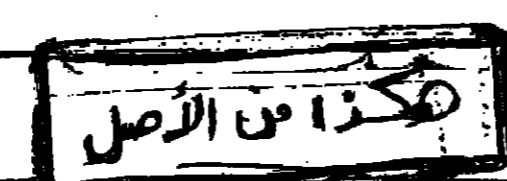
Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

Table with columns for STRAIGHTS, OFFER, and various Eurobond issues with their respective prices and indicators.

ANSWERS to the Christmas Quiz

Answers to the Christmas Quiz: 1. British Petroleum, 2. Shell Transport and Trading, 3. British Petroleum, 4. Standard Oil of California, 5. Standard and Chartered Banking Group, 6. Bayer AG, 7. The British Steel Corporation, 8. British Petroleum, 9. British Petroleum and British Steel, 10. Rise from 2.3 per cent to 2.44 per cent, 11. British Petroleum, 12. O. J. Boyle, 13. 100 per cent, 14. 100 per cent, 15. 100 per cent, 16. 100 per cent, 17. 100 per cent, 18. 100 per cent, 19. 100 per cent, 20. 100 per cent.

JOINT STATEMENT BY UNION CORPORATION LIMITED ("UNICORP") AND GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED ("GFSA") TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF UNION CORPORATION LIMITED. General Mining and Finance Corporation, Limited have only recently acquired a substantial holding in Union Corporation. They are now advising you to ignore the recommendation of the Union Corporation Board and its advisers. The interests and motives of General Mining may well be different from those of other shareholders. Follow the advice of your Board and its advisers to accept the GFSA offer and disregard the General Mining circular dated 18th December 1974. It is in your interest to send in your acceptance to GFSA not later than 10th January 1975.







## A message from Mr Cube.

"I had hoped to bring you good tidings. As it is, I'm still short of sugar.

The sugar shortage hurts us all. For you, it means continual irritation, not to mention ever higher prices. For us at Tate & Lyle it has meant a decline in the activity and earnings of our U.K. sugar refineries. Other divisions, like shipping, engineering, road transport and international trading are thriving; but the sugar shortage hurts everyone.

Do not think that nothing is being done. Everyone concerned has been making great efforts to ensure adequate sugar supplies.

But so far final agreement with the suppliers has eluded both the Government and the E.E.C.

Agreement must be reached soon. A sweet 1975 depends on it. Meanwhile,

**Happy Christmas!"**



**TATE  
+  
LYLE**

*Out of sweetness came forth strength*

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Industrials quiet, golds active

The sight of a Father Christmas making the rounds of the Exchange trading floor yesterday (collecting for charity) suggested that the City had finally decided to abandon its... The industrial share sections, however, attracted only those who wanted to take their profits...

Foreign Exchange

The dollar fell against most European currencies yesterday afternoon, to close rather mixed. Dealers said trading was quiet with single deals having disproportionate impact on exchange rates. Interbank transactions were at a low level as many European banks had already "closed positions"...

Sugar prices advance up to £30 a ton

A sharp advance was recorded in London SUGAR prices yesterday with futures rising between £2.50 and £3.00 a long ton. The daily price was raised 25 on tone to £44.0 a ton. The terminal followed through from Friday's uptrend and values were bid at limit up levels throughout the morning...

Commodities

Coffee - Robusta closed up 0.05 at 100.00, Arabica down 0.05 at 100.00. Cocoa - 1st grade closed up 0.05 at 100.00, 2nd grade down 0.05 at 100.00. Wheat - 1st grade closed up 0.05 at 100.00, 2nd grade down 0.05 at 100.00...

Latest dividends

Table with columns: Company, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes entries for British Petroleum, Shell, and others.

The Times Share Indices

Table showing share indices for various sectors like Industrials, Chemicals, and Finance.

Money Market Rates

Table showing interest rates for various terms like 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Table listing various financial products and their details.

Views taken by the press or by stockbroking firms on the outlook for various sectors of the economy moved some share prices. Bearish comments on the outlook for profits in the chemical industry lowered ICI, as well as Glaxo Holdings. Newspaper and newspaper issues remained depressed, with Bowater down to 71p and Reed International easier at 134p.

Spot Position of Sterling

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies like the Dollar, Swiss Franc, and others.

Forward Levels

Table showing forward exchange rates for various currencies.

Recent Issues

Table listing newly issued shares and their details.

Grim BLM outlook in South Africa

South Africa's subsidiary are expected to decline in the medium term and no dividend is likely on ordinary shares during this period. This dismal prospect is revealed in the document outlining the scheme through which British Leyland is buying out the 22 per cent of shares in Leyland South Africa which it does not already own. The acquisition is to be effected through BLM Finance of Switzerland.

Wall Street

New York, Dec 23 - Recession and inflation worries continued to depress the stock market. The Dow Jones Industrial Average sank 8.84 points to close at 589.64, after a 5.95 point drop on Friday.

Sharp reverse to Sangers

Shares of Sangers, the second-largest chemists' wholesalers, fell 51p to 22 1/2p after a drop in first-half profits from £788,000 to £448,000, in spite of a rise in turnover from £23.2m to £27.1m. This was after charging £68,000 for exceptional items.

BSC purchase likely

Talks are at an advanced stage for the sale of the British Steel Corporation of the materials handling business of Smith's Enterprises (Glamorgan), a subsidiary of Richards & Wallington Industries. The business is based at Llanwern, South Wales.

Gold Fields offer out

The Gold Fields of South Africa formal offer for Union Corporation has now been published. It argues that General Mining, with 28 per cent of the equity, does not plan a general offer. So it urges non-controlled shareholders to accept its bid. Otherwise, it argues, the Unicorp share price will fall. Among these other shareholders are Charter Consolidated with 10 per cent.

Silver shows gains up to 20 cents

New York, Dec 23 - SILVER prices rose sharply today, with the 20 cents limit. Traders were impressed by today's recovery in the futures market and the firm performance of London silver. The price of silver rose to 107.50 cents per ounce, up from 105.50 cents per ounce on Monday.

Bank Base Rates

Table listing bank base rates for various banks like Barclays, NatWest, and others.

Insurance Bonds and Funds

Table listing various insurance products and their details.

Offshore and International

Table listing various offshore and international financial products.



كندا من الأصل

Stock Exchange Prices

Rises in gold shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Today. Dealings End Jan 10. Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 21. \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Drummond's Freedom Suitings. A cut above the rest!

HINE connoisseurs' cognac

Main table containing stock exchange prices for various sectors: BRITISH FUNDS, COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, OREGON STOCKS, HOLLAR STOCKS, BANKS AND DISCOUNTS, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL TRUSTS, MINES, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, OIL, PROPERTY, RUBBER, and SHIPPING.



To place an advertisement in any of these categories, call 01-837 3311

Manchester office: 061-834 1234

Business Vacancies, Business Services, Domestic Services, etc.

Box No replies should be addressed to...

Deaths section header

ATKINSON - On Dec 23, 1974, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

BIRTHS section header

CARTON - On Dec 21, 1974, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

MARRIAGES section header

ARON - On Dec 21, 1974, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

DEATHS

LAWTON - On Dec 23, 1974, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

DEATHS

WHITSON - On Dec 23, 1974, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

DEATHS

WILSON - On Dec 23, 1974, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

DEATHS

WOLFE - On Dec 23, 1974, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

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WOLFE - On Dec 23, 1974, at St. Mary's Hospital, London...

PERSONAL COLUMNS

Classified Advertisement Department CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

This office will be closed on 25th December

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESEARCH TO FIND THE CURE

CANCER RESEARCH

IN MEMORIAM

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FLORISSA SPEAK

THE CHEST AND HEART ASSOCIATION

RESTAURANTS

APPROXIMATE'S

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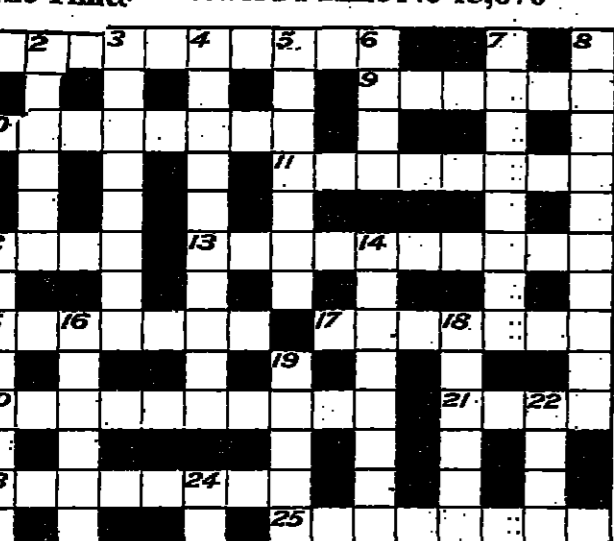
TOP FLIGHT TRAVELS

KENYA SPECIALISTS

TRAVELAIR

TOP FLIGHT TRAVELS

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,876



ACROSS 1 Union shunter-up? (6, 4) 2 Also about a Florentine tailor's son (6)...

HE'S LUCKY (we found him)

Dave 16 - from a broken home. Then - in London - no job, no prospects...

THE SHAFTSURY HOMES AND 'ARETHUSA' (Dept T15) 228 Shaftsbury Avenue, London WC2H 9EP

SURPLUS 9 ATTRACTIVE, EFFICIENT, GOOD HUMOURED SECRETARIES

This ad was placed on our successful series plan (3 days with the 4th day free) and within 2 days the advertiser had found his perfect secretary...

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

including Births, Marriages, Deaths, etc. Classified advertising section

POWER PROBLEMS

Generators for industry, Ex stock for immediate delivery, 3kVA-600kVA

THE MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP'S Latest Report